

**To:** FlintPIO[FlintPIO@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Abrams, Dan[Abrams.Dan@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Bassler, Rachel[Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov]; Rowan, Anne[rowan.anne@epa.gov]; Lam, Shelly[lam.shelly@epa.gov]; Calvino, Maria Soledad[Calvino.Maria@epa.gov]; Kelley, Jeff[kelley.jeff@epa.gov]; Durno, Mark[durno.mark@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ragland, Micah  
**Sent:** Sat 3/19/2016 11:48:57 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Deadline Sunday March 20th at 4pm Re: (NEEDS REVIEW) Re: Press Inquiry about Flint, MI Drinking Water - Water Defense Bathing Concerns

Below is an email that Water Defense forwarded to me this morning that summarizes their take on what was discussed between them and UC officials. Probably be good to share this with our folks who were in the meeting to get their take.

Just landed in Detroit and will be in Flint later tonight.

**From:** Scott Smith <[ssmith@waterdefense.org](mailto:ssmith@waterdefense.org)>  
**Date:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 8:31 AM  
**To:** Mark Durno <[durno.mark@epa.gov](mailto:durno.mark@epa.gov)>, Bryce Feighner <[feighnerb@michigan.gov](mailto:feighnerb@michigan.gov)>, Mark Johnson <[mdjohnson@cdc.gov](mailto:mdjohnson@cdc.gov)>, Motria Caudill <[mcaudill@cdc.gov](mailto:mcaudill@cdc.gov)>  
**Cc:** Eden Wells Dr <[wellse3@michigan.gov](mailto:wellse3@michigan.gov)>  
**Subject:** Follow Up - MI-DEQ / EPA / Water Defense Meeting

All,

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me yesterday. The purpose of this e-mail is to summarize our meeting and outline follow up items. Please let me know if I missed anything, got something wrong, and/or if you have any additions.

I will be meeting this morning at 10 AM with Bryce again with Harold Harrington and Ben Ranger for the UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Union. Hopefully, Dr. Wells will be able to join us this morning.

Below is a summary of the meeting, follow up actions, and questions:

1. Flint has an inefficient water distribution system as it is sized 3 times larger than it should be. Old water in the system is an issue. There have been chlorine valve malfunctions. Chlorine pellets have been added manually. What does all of this mean? Do we have detailed data on this? Is this potentially part of the issues with rashes and people complaining of getting sick from showering / bathing? Do comprised galvanized pipes have something to do with the rash and health issues?
2. EPA has initiated testing of 100 homes. I understand there are about 40,000 homes in Flint. Given all the variables, statistically, can we draw definitive conclusions with this sample size?
3. One thing the government agencies are struggling with is basing health and human safety for bathing / showering on drinking water standards. There seems to be agreement with me

/ Water Defense on concerns of declaring water safe to shower / bathe in based on drinking water standards as no one really drinks hot / warm bath water that utilizes a water heater – and chemicals like chloroform are not only absorbed through the skin and are lipophilic, but also volatilize in the air and are breathed directly into the lungs . 3 human exposure pathways – drinking, bathing / showering – dermal absorption, and breathing (volatiles / chloroform – trihalomethanes). Water concentrations of lead and other chemicals do not correlate to dermal (skin) absorption. Both Scott Smith and Mark Durno raised the questions of there not being any studies on dermal absorption and/or bathing / showering standards for health and human safety. Given this, what is the basis for the Bulk Text that was sent out to the community last week declaring the water safe to bath and shower in? This is the direct quote from the Bulk Text “Flint Pediatrician Dr. Mona says based on current scientific testing, bathing is safe and warm showers are best.

More: <https://www.cityofflint.com>.” This is a strong statement. Where is the backup data for this statement? What current scientific testing is Dr. Mona referring to? Was this statement based on drinking water standards? Was there a toxicology review? Were any bathtub /shower water tests done prior to this statement and if so, where are these detailed test reports? I keep asking are there bathing / showering standards and/or studies we have not seen? – and I have been told these standards / studies do not exist.

4. The rash investigations include 300-400 cases.
5. How water heaters and follow up testing is important. Water Defense has found lead in water heaters. Given that pH variation can cause lead to go into solution, what data do we have available to monitor this and how are we going to monitor this?
6. Particulate lead appears to be a longer term problem. There has not been much of a discussion about particulate lead with the community. It may be that the lead pipes can heal themselves with the orthophosphate; however, it appears that the galvanized pipes and copper pipes could continue to pose risks longer term. Once the galvanized pipes were compromised with the corrosive Flint river water, how effective is the orthophosphate? For example, why are we continuing to see 350 ppb of lead entering Harold Harrington’s house? Barry Richardson still has concerning lead levels in his water heater as does Harold Harrington. What sampling size is necessary in Flint to draw conclusions about what is in the water heaters and what are the associated longer term risks?
7. Scott Smith will send a separate e-mail with all the detailed ALS Environmental Lab reports. EPA / MI-DEQ will also send to Water Defense all detailed lab reports. We can then cross reference all the data. Scott Smith will introduce Mark Johnson to the entire Water Defense scientific and toxicology support team, set up a conference call, and discuss in detail the open-cell matrix Waterbug testing for cumulative / exposure over time. Water Defense has taken grab samples too and tested for the full spectrum of chemicals VOC’s, SVOC’s, and Metals. Furthermore, in the homes Water Defense tested with grab samples we tested the state of the water as it enters the home is testing, water heaters, and bathtubs and showers.

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with me. On behalf of Water Defense, we look forward to working with all of you to support the community and great people of Flint.

**Best Regards,**

**Scott Smith**  
**Chief Technology Officer & Investigator**  
**Water Defense**  
**Twitter @WaterWarriorOne**  
**(508) 345-6520**

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2016, at 7:18 PM, FlintPIO <[FlintPIO@epa.gov](mailto:FlintPIO@epa.gov)> wrote:

Anne Rowan followed up briefly with NBC 25 Flint Anchor /Reporter Stephanie Parkinson who said her deadline can hold until 4 pm Sunday. Parkinson wants EPA to comment on whether the Agency is changing its stance regarding the safety of bathing.

According to Parkinson, Scott Smith from Water Defense told her that following meetings with EPA (on Thurs, Friday, and Saturday), EPA officials now "agree with him" that more thorough testing is needed to support the current recommendations regarding bathing.

We realize these questions regarding bathing should go to HHS, CDS, ATSDR, and MDHHS.

We understand from talking to Liz, that Micah and Nancy are in the best position to help us respond to the reporter.

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**Public Information Office**

Flint Water Response

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Duty Phone: (312) 802-3646

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**From:** FlintPIO

**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 06:42 PM

**To:** Grantham, Nancy; Lee, Monica; Abrams, Dan; Purchia, Liz

**Cc:** Bassler, Rachel; Rowan, Anne; Lam, Shelly; Calvino, Maria Soledad

**Subject:** (NEEDS REVIEW) Re: Press Inquiry about Flint, MI Drinking Water - Water Defense Bathing Concerns

Hi Stephanie,

EPA is providing data and technical assistance CDC/ATSDR and MDHHS as they investigate health complaints. EPA's staff in Flint has not reviewed data from Water Defense. For more information on the meetings with and data provided by Water Defense, please contact [jeni.geels@hhs.gov](mailto:jeni.geels@hhs.gov) or Angela Minicucia at [minicucia@michigan.gov](mailto:minicucia@michigan.gov)

The advice from HHS remains the same: Skin does not absorb lead in water. Everyone can wash hands, bathe, or shower with unfiltered water. It is safe even if the skin has minor cuts or scrapes. However, people should not drink bathwater, and make sure that babies and children do not drink bathwater. Rashes have many causes, but no medical link between rashes and unfiltered water has been found. If residents have concerns, they should call their primary care provider or 2-1-1.

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**From:** Stephanie Parkinson <[sparkinson@sbgstv.com](mailto:sparkinson@sbgstv.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 04:23 PM

**To:** FlintPIO

**Subject:** Press Inquiry about Flint, MI Drinking Water - Water Defense Bathing Concerns

I spoke with Scott Smith of Water Defense today. He has tested the water in Flint for many organic compounds and has a strong stance that the water is unsafe to bathe in.

Smith tells me yesterday and today he met with people on the ground in Flint with the EPA. He says those EPA officials agree with him that the government is not doing enough testing before declaring the water safe to bathe in. But tell him the EPA's concern is creating panic in Flint.

Those EPA officials say they will now do more thorough testing.

Given these developments, I would like to know if the EPA will be changing its stance on the safety of bathing in the water in Flint.

Thank you.

**Stephanie Parkinson**

Anchor/Reporter

NBC25

Flint, Michigan

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